

1. A method of configuring a home entertainment network terminal at a subscriber site, comprising:

provisioning the home entertainment network terminal by using DHCP services to obtain a unique terminal identifier, wherein the DHCP services use DHCP option 43 to define a scope of the subscriber site, wherein the DHCP services use DHCP option 15 to define a unique sub-domain name for the subscriber site, and wherein the DHCP services use DHCP option 12 to define a common host name for the terminal;

carrying out a discovery process by attempting to contact each terminal in the sub-domain within the scope defined by DHCP option; and

for at least one terminal identified in the discovery process, synchronizing a database with a database of the identified terminal.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the synchronizing comprises synchronizing to an identified terminal having a database carrying a most recent time stamp.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the synchronizing comprises synchronizing to an identified terminal having either a lowest or highest ordered identifier.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the database comprises a transactional based database.

5. The method according to claim 1, further comprising determining that a re-discovery time has arrived and repeating the carrying out the discovery process and the synchronizing.

6. The method according to claim 1, further comprising listing an identified terminal in a list of active terminals in the sub-domain.

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the discovery process further comprises attempting unsuccessfully to contact a terminal, and marking the unsuccessfully contacted terminal as invalid on a list of active terminals in the sub-domain.

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8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the discovery process further comprises carrying out a specified number of attempts to contact a terminal, and if the terminal is not successfully contacted within the specified number of attempts, marking the unsuccessfully contacted terminal as invalid on a list of active terminals in the sub-domain.

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9. A method of configuring a home entertainment network terminal at a subscriber site, comprising:

provisioning the home entertainment network terminal by using DHCP services to obtain a unique terminal identifier, wherein the DHCP services use DHCP option 43 to
5 define a scope of the subscriber site, wherein the DHCP services use DHCP option 15 to define a unique sub-domain name for the subscriber site, and wherein the DHCP services use DHCP option 12 to define a common host name for the terminal;

carrying out a discovery process by attempting to contact each terminal in the sub-domain within the scope defined by DHCP option;

10 for at least one terminal identified in the discovery process, synchronizing a transactional based database with a database of the identified terminal, the identified terminal having a database carrying a most recent time stamp, and wherein the identified terminal has either a lowest or highest ordered identifier;

listing the identified terminal in a list of active terminals in the sub-domain; and

15 determining that a re-discovery time has arrived and repeating the carrying out the discovery process and the synchronizing.

10. The method according to claim 9, wherein the discovery process further comprises carrying out a specified number of attempts to contact a terminal, and if the
20 terminal is not successfully contacted within the specified number of attempts, marking the unsuccessfully contacted terminal as invalid on a list of active terminals in the sub-domain.

11. A home entertainment network terminal, comprising:
a network interface that receives content and data from a network;
a display interface that carries content from the network to a display for viewing
by a user;
- 5 a database;
a processor, coupled to the network interface, that operates under programmed
control to:
- 10 provision the home entertainment network terminal by using network
DHCP services to obtain a unique terminal identifier, wherein the DHCP services
use DHCP option 43 to define a scope of the subscriber site, wherein the DHCP
services use DHCP option 15 to define a unique sub-domain name for the
subscriber site, and wherein the DHCP services use DHCP option 12 to define a
common host name for the terminal;
- 15 carry out a discovery process by attempting to contact each terminal in the
sub-domain within the scope defined by DHCP option; and
for at least one terminal identified in the discovery process, synchronize
the database with a database of the identified terminal.
12. The home entertainment network terminal according to claim 11, wherein the
20 synchronizing comprises synchronizing to an identified terminal having a database
carrying a most recent time stamp.
13. The home entertainment network terminal according to claim 11, wherein the
synchronizing comprises synchronizing to an identified terminal having either a lowest or
25 highest ordered identifier.
14. The home entertainment network terminal according to claim 11, wherein the
database comprises a transactional based database.

15. The home entertainment network terminal according to claim 11, wherein the processor further operates under program control to determine that a re-discovery time has arrived and repeating the carrying out the discovery process and the synchronizing.

5 16. The home entertainment network terminal according to claim 11, wherein the processor further operates under program control to list an identified terminal in a list of active terminals in the sub-domain.

10 17. The home entertainment network terminal according to claim 11, wherein the processor further operates under program control to determine that an attempt to contact a terminal was unsuccessful, and to mark the unsuccessfully contacted terminal as invalid on a list of active terminals in the sub-domain.

15 18. The home entertainment network terminal according to claim 11, wherein the processor further operates under program control to carrying out a specified number of attempts to contact a terminal, and if the terminal is not successfully contacted within the specified number of attempts, mark the unsuccessfully contacted terminal as invalid on a list of active terminals in the sub-domain.

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19. A home entertainment network terminal, comprising:
means for provisioning the home entertainment network terminal by using DHCP services to obtain a unique terminal identifier;
means for carrying out a discovery process by attempting to contact each terminal
5 in the sub-domain within the scope defined by DHCP option; and
means for synchronizing a database with a database of the identified terminal.
20. The home entertainment network terminal according to claim 19, wherein the DHCP services use DHCP option 43 to define a scope of the subscriber site, wherein the
10 DHCP services use DHCP option 15 to define a unique sub-domain name for the subscriber site, and wherein the DHCP services use DHCP option 12 to define a common host name for the terminal.
21. The home entertainment network terminal according to claim 19, wherein the
15 synchronizing comprises synchronizing to an identified terminal having a database carrying a most recent time stamp.
22. The home entertainment network terminal according to claim 19, wherein the synchronizing comprises synchronizing to an identified terminal having either a lowest or
20 highest ordered identifier.
23. The home entertainment network terminal according to claim 19, further comprising means for determining that a re-discovery time has arrived and repeating the carrying out the discovery process and the synchronizing.
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24. The home entertainment network terminal according to claim 19, further comprising means for listing an identified terminal in a list of active terminals in the sub-domain, and marking an unsuccessfully contacted terminal as invalid on the list of active terminals in the sub-domain.
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25. The home entertainment network terminal according to claim 19, wherein the terminal comprises a television set-top box.

26. A computer readable storage medium storing instructions which, when executed on a programmed processor, carry out a process of configuring a home entertainment network terminal at a subscriber site, comprising:
- provisioning a home entertainment network terminal by using DHCP services to
- 5 obtain a unique terminal identifier;
- means for carrying out a discovery process by attempting to contact each terminal in the sub-domain within the scope defined by DHCP option; and
- means for synchronizing a database with a database of the identified terminal.
- 10 27. The storage medium according to claim 26, wherein the DHCP services use DHCP option 43 to define a scope of the subscriber site, wherein the DHCP services use DHCP option 15 to define a unique sub-domain name for the subscriber site, and wherein the DHCP services use DHCP option 12 to define a common host name for the terminal.
- 15 28. The storage medium according to claim 26, wherein the synchronizing comprises synchronizing to an identified terminal having a database carrying a most recent time stamp.
29. The storage medium according to claim 26, wherein the synchronizing comprises
- 20 synchronizing to an identified terminal having either a lowest or highest ordered identifier.
30. The storage medium according to claim 26, further comprising means for determining that a re-discovery time has arrived and repeating the carrying out the
- 25 discovery process and the synchronizing.

31. The storage medium according to claim 26, further comprising means for listing an identified terminal in a list of active terminals in the sub-domain, and marking an unsuccessfully contacted terminal as invalid on the list of active terminals in the sub-domain.

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32. A method of configuring a home entertainment network terminal at a subscriber site, comprising:

provisioning a home entertainment network terminal by using DHCP services to obtain a unique terminal identifier;

5 carrying out a discovery process by attempting to contact each terminal in the sub-domain within the scope defined by DHCP option; and
synchronizing a database with a database of the identified terminal.

33. The method according to claim 32, wherein the DHCP services use DHCP option
10 43 to define a scope of the subscriber site, wherein the DHCP services use DHCP option
15 to define a unique sub-domain name for the subscriber site, and wherein the DHCP services use DHCP option 12 to define a common host name for the terminal.

34. The method according to claim 32, wherein the synchronizing comprises
15 synchronizing to an identified terminal having a database carrying a most recent time stamp.

35. The method according to claim 32, wherein the synchronizing comprises
20 synchronizing to an identified terminal having either a lowest or highest ordered identifier.

36. The method according to claim 32, further comprising determining that a re-
discovery time has arrived and repeating the carrying out the discovery process and the
25 synchronizing.

37. The method according to claim 32, further comprising listing an identified
terminal in a list of active terminals in the sub-domain, and marking an unsuccessfully
contacted terminal as invalid on the list of active terminals in the sub-domain.

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